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Modern Sheep:

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LIVESTOCK

THE NEW WAY.

M. E. Sherman.

The "horse doctor" formerly was a quack. He picked up a smattering around the stables of the racing men. The knowledge he lacked he made up by bravado. By the time he was gray headed he learned a few things that it was not well to do. He was rained like some people by the expensive school of experience, at the cost of much suffering on part of the animals and expense to the owner. He always charged all the people would pay. Today we have a noble class of men in the ranks of veterinary medicine, recognized as fullfledged members of the regular profession of medicine and surgery, affiliated closely with the scientific men of the medical profession.

The old idea was that a sick animal was to be left alone to die or get well with possibly the aid of some dose devised by the wild imagination of the stable boys. A favorite dose used to be boiled peach leaves for colic. By the time the leaves were gathered and boiled down to a pulp the horse was well or dead. If he was alive the dose was drenched down him and he was "cured."

How To Give Medicines,

The drenching of a horse is often attempted by unskillful hands and the animals receives a portion into his lungs; after a few days of suffering, dies. I had a man that knew absolutely nothing about horses and in one of our absences from home attempted to drench a four-year-old draft horse; when the horse resisted he had him thrown down and drenched him through the nose. When we came home an hour or so afterwards he told of it. He felt abused when we told him the chances were against the horse, for it was not proper to drench a horse through the nose, Sure enough the poor creature had received enough of the drench into the lungs to die within a few days.

Appliances,

Today the science of veterinary medicine has advanced to the point of making the regular doctor's outfit nearly as extensive as the instruments used by the regular attendant of the human family. The pop gun that

shoots the ball of medicine down the throat of the attonished horse is one that is in common use. It often alarms the patient so greatly that it is weeks before he will open his mouth for the bit without a struggle. There is now a long list of hypodermic medi cines for the horse. These are put up in neat cases with syringe and full di rections. These are first aid rather than for dispensing with the veterin ary surgeon. While I never hesitate to give a hypodermic to a horse with acute pain, still I send at once for a veterinarian; the prompt use of morphia often saves a rupture of the bow-

Old Horses.

It is safe to say that nearly every old horse that dies while still useful, dies from stomach or bowel troubles. I sometimes think that the horses on the ranch would live forever if sudden colic did not carry them off. Now these faithful old friends need to be more carefully fed than the younger horses. They need to be watched; a little oil cake and bran mixed with dampened rolled barley will keep them thrifty for a long time. The old horse has a value from training in vineyard work that adds to his work greatly. He never tramps vines and any kind of a two-legged biped can handle him. He often is far wiser than his driver and more careful, Save the old horse for the slow, careful work and push the young one into doing the heavy or fast work.

"Floating" the Teeth.

The old horse, and, indeed, many young ones, have rough irregular teeth; these sharp edges wound the sides of the mouth and the food is bolted instead of chewed carefully. The veterinary dentist uses a broad file after pinching off the sharp points to make the mouth level once more In the West we often feed foxtail hay. The sharp points run into the mouth and often a mass is found un der the tongue. Once a day the hands should be put into the horses mouth and all these pulled out. It is common to find horses that have breath so offensive from the rotten mass in their mouth that it is noticeable as you pass them tied along the racks.

Helps.

Many young horses bolt their food too rapidly for perfect chewing. There

are corrugated iron boxes to prevent this as well as several other patents. The cobbles from the washes large enough for the horse not to be able to swallow make the cleanest things to use in the feed box. Three of these will allow the feed to drop between them, and the horse's nose must be pushed down to nibble up his grain. A mixed diet often helps the young horse as well as the older ones. Chopped up pumpkins or beets or carrots, five or six pounds once or twice a week, will take the place of green grass. Where a family horse is kept, if the cook will be careful to keep the tops of beets and outside leaves of lettuce and cabbage clean and free from grease, the horse will be greatly obliged to the hands that kindly add them to his food.

Fears.

The only fears that come to the horse owner should be the fear of not watching his health. A little extra care will make a horse live a long time and keep well. Every stable should have a half barrel to give a horse a foot bath when necessary. It should also have a three-yard Jersey bandage to be used on the leg that swells or stocks. The bandage is prit on beginning at the hoof and after it is well wrapped, it is wet, then a pant leg or anything to keep it warm is slipped over it. This is the only water that should ever touch a horse's leg. Keep the hose off him and watch his teeth. Do not overwork or overload him. He will then serve you twenty or more years. I am driving a mare eighteen years old that has never lost a day from work by sickness since she was put into harness fifteen years ago. She is sleek and active as a well fed cat. Today she will out-race any colt in the pasture for the fun of going. Yes. Good old Morgan blood. Pity there are no: more of them. They are spirited, but gentle, intelligent and loving to their owners. Nearer, perhaps, to the description of the Arab horse that lived in his master's tent with the children than any horse we have had in the country.

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